

WHAT CHANGED AND WHAT STAYED THE SAME IN MIDDLE AGES MEDICINE?



Read the following statements about medical treatments and ideas in the Middle Ages. Decide which are examples of continuity and which are examples of change. Draw up two columns into your exercise books and write each one into what you think is the correct column.

- Illness can be brought and taken away by God
- The movement of the planets causes illness
- The Four Humours theory
- Patient's urine was analysed
- Herbal remedies and cures were used
- Doctors carried a vademecum chart about the position of the planets
- Clinical observation was used
- Dissection was not allowed
- Barber surgeons became popular
- The Christian church set up some hospitals
- The Jews bring disease
- Streets should be removed of rubbish and filth
- There was a basic knowledge of anatomy
- Bad air or bad smells cause illness
- Animals were often dissected
- Only rich people had proper medical care
- Surgeons could carry out minor surgery on the outside of the body
- Bleeding and making patients vomit was used as a treatment for illness
- The theory of opposites was used to treat illness
- Some diseases are contagious
- Most poor people were treated by family members
- Doctors had to carry licenses proving they were properly trained



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Remember, ask yourself if the idea/treatment had been used in earlier time periods. If it had it is an example of continuity. If it hadn't it is an example of change